

# Statistics Weekly

Thursday, 16 August 1990

## *The week in statistics ...*

- ☐ Both employment and unemployment rise 2
- ☐ Gender gap slowly closing in award pay rates 3
- ☐ Road deaths — low figures continue 4
- ☐ The current account — more than a container load 4
- ☐ Occupation coding — expert computer assistance 5
- ☐ All the week's releases 6
- ☐ Calendar of key releases up to 28 August 7
- ☐ The latest ...
  - key State indicators 7
  - key national indicators 8

## Both employment and unemployment rise

Both employment and unemployment rose in July 1990.

The lift in employment was mainly due to increased full-time employment of females, while the increased number of unemployed persons was influenced by a strong rise in the number of males looking for full-time work.

Seasonally adjusted, compared with June 1990, employment rose by 30,700 to 7,936,800 in July. The main components making up the increase were:

- ☐ male part-time employment which rose 10,400
- ☐ female full-time employment which rose by 24,700 to 1,996,400.

The July seasonally adjusted estimate of unemployed persons was 592,100, a rise of 29,800 compared with June 1990. Male unemployment rose by 27,100 to 336,800, with a rise of 22,300 in the number of males seeking full-time employment. Female unemployment was relatively steady.

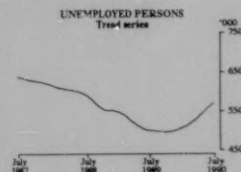
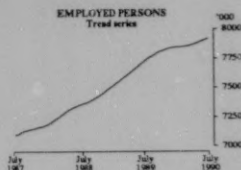
The unemployment rate in July was 6.9 per cent seasonally adjusted, a rise of 0.3 percentage points compared with June. For males, the unemployment rate rose by 0.5 percentage points to 6.8 per cent. For females, the rate was unchanged at 7.2 per cent.

Seasonally adjusted, the labour force participation rate was 64.2 per cent in July 1990, a record high for the survey and a rise from 63.9 per cent in June. The male participation rate rose by 0.4 percentage points to 76.0 per cent. The female participation rate rose by 0.3 percentage points to 52.8 per cent, a continuation of the recent increases in this rate.

LABOUR FORCE ESTIMATES  
Seasonally adjusted

	Employed			Unemployment rate — per cent —	Participation rate
	Full-time workers	Part-time workers — '000 —	Total employed		
1990 —					
April	6,196.6	1,664.4	7,861.0	6.2	63.4
May	6,237.9	1,665.2	7,903.1	6.5	63.8
June	6,242.7	1,663.4	7,906.1	6.6	63.9
July	6,263.8	1,673.1	7,936.8	6.9	64.2

For further information, order the publication *The Labour Force, Australia, Preliminary (6202.0)*, or contact Don Clark (06) 252 6525.



## Gender gap slowly closing in award pay rates

Over the twelve months to June 1990 the weekly award rates of pay indexes rose by 5.9 per cent for full-time adult females, and by 5.7 per cent for full-time adult males.

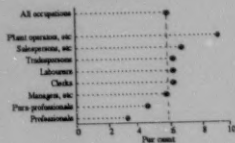
The larger gains for females over the period occurred in the manufacturing industry (8.2% for females, 6.9% for males) and in the wholesale and retail trade industry (8.0% for females, 6.9% for males).

In terms of occupation groups, the largest difference between females and males occurred in the plant and machine operators, and drivers occupation group (9.2% for females, 5.6% for males) and the clerks group (6.2% for females, 5.5% for males).

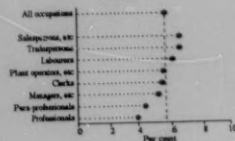
The increases in award rates of pay indexes over the twelve months to June 1990 are mostly due to the continuing inclusion of the August 1989 first and second tier increases, effective from September 1989 and March 1990 respectively.

AWARD RATES OF PAY  
FULL-TIME ADULTS  
Change June 1989 to June 1990

### FEMALES



### MALES

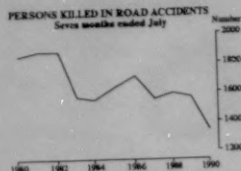


WEEKLY AWARD RATES OF PAY  
FULL-TIME ADULT EMPLOYEES  
Percentage change June 1989 to June 1990

Industry	Males	Females
Mining	2.7	—
Manufacturing	6.9	8.2
Electricity, gas and water	4.5	—
Construction	6.5	—
Wholesale and retail trade	6.9	8.0
Transport and storage	5.4	5.1
Communication	4.4	2.8
Finance, property and business services	6.0	6.2
Public administration and defence	4.9	6.1
Community services	3.8	4.3
Recreation, personal and other services	5.9	6.5
All industries	5.7	5.9

These indexes of award rate movements might be read in conjunction with the Average Weekly Earnings series which include a number of payments additional to award pay. Latest data from that series (*Statistics Weekly* 12 July 1990) show that average weekly earnings for females remain significantly below that for males. They also show that average weekly ordinary time earnings rose by 6.6 per cent in the twelve months to February 1990.

For further information, order the publication *Award Rates of Pay Indexes*, Australia (6312.0), or contact Bruce McClelland on (06) 252 6581.



## Road deaths — low figures continue

The number of road accident deaths in Australia continues at a low level. The 198 deaths recorded in July was the second lowest total for that month since the series began in 1970.

This total represents a decrease of 7.5 per cent from July 1989 (214) and of 9.2 per cent from the total for June 1990 (218).

In the year to date, 1,341 persons have been killed on Australian roads, 225 fewer than for the same period last year. This is the lowest number of deaths for any seven month period since the series began.

PERSONS KILLED IN ROAD ACCIDENTS  
Seven months ended July 1990

	Number of fatalities	Percentage change from corresponding seven months in 1989
New South Wales	460	-11
Victoria	344	-27
Queensland	212	-4
South Australia	119	-2
Western Australia	116	-10
Tasmania	38	-33
Northern Territory	40	14
Australian Capital Territory	12	-33
<b>Australia</b>	<b>1,341</b>	<b>-14</b>

Of the 198 persons killed in road accidents in July 1990, 41 per cent were motor vehicle drivers, 23 per cent motor vehicle passengers and 24 per cent pedestrians.

For further information, order the publication *Road Traffic Accidents Involving Fatalities, Australia (9401.0)*, or contact Andy Harris on (06) 252 5443.

## The current account — more than a container load

This is part two of our three part series on the Balance of Payments.

Commentaries on our monthly balance of payments figures often concentrate on what is loosely called the balance of trade. Yet, while trade in merchandise is clearly important, it is only one of four elements which make up the balance on Australia's current account. Indeed, in recent times other elements, such as the payment of interest on foreign debt, have assumed increasing influence on the current account.

The *balance on current account* is the sum of the balances on merchandise trade, services trade, income and unrequited transfers. The balances are derived by differencing *credit* entries, which are shown without sign, and *debit* entries, which have a negative sign. (Brief definitions of each of these components are given on page 5.)

Essentially the balance on current account shows the extent to which a nation is living within its income, or, in terms of savings, the extent to which a nation draws on foreign saving or 'exports' its own domestic saving.

Continued ...

**BALANCE OF PAYMENTS  
CURRENT ACCOUNT**  
\$ million

	June 1990
Balance of merchandise trade	25
Net services	- 386
Net income	- 1,372
Net unrequited transfers	158
<i>Balance on current account</i>	<i>- 1,575</i>

The balance on current account is made up of:

- ☐ *Balance of merchandise trade:* the difference between the value of merchandise (i.e. most movable goods) exported to non-residents (a credit entry) and imported from non-residents (a debit).
- ☐ *Net services:* the difference between the value of services, such as transportation, travel and professional advice, provided by Australian residents to non-residents (credit) and by non-residents to residents (debit).
- ☐ *Net income:* the difference between the value of income, such as dividends and interest, receivable by residents from non-residents (credit) and that payable by residents to non-residents (debit).
- ☐ *Net unrequited transfers:* the difference between unrequited transfers credits and debits. Unrequited transfers are the offset entries required when real resources are provided, without something of economic value being received in return, by non-residents to Australian residents (offsetting credits required) and by residents to non-residents (offsetting debits required). For example Australia's foreign aid abroad requires an unrequited transfers debit entry while an immigrant who brings foreign exchange adds a credit to unrequited transfers.

*A more comprehensive guide to the balance of payments may be found in Balance of Payments, Australia: Summary of Concepts, Sources and Methods (5351.0). This simplified series will be concluded in a future issue.*

## Occupation coding — expert computer assistance

Do you need to code occupation information to the Australian Standard Classification of Occupations (ASCO)? If so then the *ASCO Expert Coding System* should be of interest to you.

*ASCO Expert* is a computer assisted coding system that is used interactively by the user to facilitate fast, consistent and accurate coding of occupation information right down to the unit group level of ASCO.

*ASCO Expert:*

- ☐ requires minimal key entry of data;
- ☐ combines the coder's ability to interpret occupation titles and task descriptions with the fast searching and matching abilities of a microcomputer to produce high coding rates;
- ☐ requires less coder training;
- ☐ provides on-line access to the ASCO classification structure and all unit group definitions in the classification to assist with query resolution.

*ASCO Expert* software runs on an IBM or compatible microcomputer (XT, AT or PS/2), comes in a variety of floppy disk formats along with comprehensive documentation and training material. It is available on an annual lease basis at a cost of \$500 per annum. Significant discounts apply to the lease of multiple copies.

*If you would like to know more about ASCO Expert, please telephone the ASCO Expert Hotline on (06) 252 5757.*

## Inquiries

The ABS supplies a wide range of statistical information:

- ☐ through its bookshops
- ☐ by mail order (including subscription)
- ☐ by facsimile
- ☐ electronically.

To order any of the publications that appear in *Statistics Weekly* or to inquire about the statistics and services available from the ABS, contact Information Services at any of the offices listed below. An Information Consultancy Service in each office provides assistance of a more extensive or complex nature.

### ABS Central Office

PO BOX 10  
BELCONNEN ACT 2616  
(06) 252 6627  
FAX (06) 253 1404

### ABS State Offices

NSW (02) 268 4611  
Vic. (03) 615 7000  
Qld (07) 222 6351  
WA (09) 323 5140  
SA (08) 237 7100  
Tas. (002) 20 5800  
NT (089) 81 3456

Any suggestions for improvement to this publication should be addressed to:

Peter Damcevski  
Editor  
*Statistics Weekly*  
(06) 252 6101

## All the week's releases: 8 to 14 August

### General

Australian Standard Classification of Occupations (ASCO)—Expert Coding System, Unit Group Level, Version 6.0 on Floppy Disk, 1990 (1224.0; \$500.00) — *new issue*

Statistics Weekly, 9 August 1990 (1318.0; \$3.50)

Economic Indicators, Vic., July 1990 (1307.2; \$5.00)

Western Australia in Brief, 1990 (1306.5; free)

### Demography

Marriages, Qld, 1989 (3304.3; \$4.00)

### National accounts, finance and foreign trade

Imports, Aust., June Qtr 1990 (5435.0; \$16.25)

Co-operative Housing Societies: Assets, Liabilities, Income and Expenditure, Aust., 1988-89 (5633.0; \$3.30)

### Labour statistics and prices

The Labour Force, Aust., July 1990, Preliminary (6202.0; \$8.50)

The Labour Force, Aust. — Preliminary Data on Floppy Disk, July 1990 (6271.0; \$60.00)

Award Rates of Pay Indexes, Aust., June 1990 (6312.0; \$8.50)

Major Labour Costs, Aust., 1988-89 (6348.0; \$16.50)

### Agriculture

Livestock Products — Meat, Qld, June 1990 (7204.3; \$3.30)

### Secondary industry and distribution

Enterprise Statistics, Aust., 1985-86 (8103.0; \$25.00)

Production of Food, Drink, Tobacco and Stock and Poultry Food, Aust., April 1990 (8359.0; \$8.50)

Production of Fibres, Yarns, Fabrics, Bedding and Floor Coverings, Aust., April 1990 (8360.0; \$8.50)

Production of Building Materials and Fittings, Aust., May 1990 (8361.0; \$5.50)

Production of Transport Equipment, Aust., May 1990 (8363.0; \$3.50)

Production of Energy Products, Aust., May 1990 (8368.0; \$3.50)

Actual and Expected Private Mineral Exploration, Aust., March Qtr 1990 (8412.0; \$5.00)

Building Approvals, Qld, June 1990 (8731.3; \$8.50)

Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, SA, May 1990, Preliminary (8740.4; \$3.30)

Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, Tas., May 1990 (8741.6; \$3.30)

### Transport

Interstate Freight Movement, Aust., 1988-89 (9212.0; \$3.00)

Road Traffic Accidents Involving Fatalities, Aust., July 1990 (9401.0; \$4.00)

Road Traffic Accidents, Qld, December Qtr 1989 (9405.3; \$8.00)

## Calendar of key releases

Expected releases over the fortnight to 28 August 1990

August

- 15** Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Australia, June 1990 (5609.0; \$8.00)  
Retail Trade, Australia, June 1990 (8501.0; \$8.50)
- 16** Average Weekly Earnings, Australia, Preliminary, May 1990 (6301.0; \$3.50)
- 21** Australian National Accounts: National Income and Expenditure, June Quarter 1990 (5206.0; \$16.50) (7.30pm release)  
Australian National Accounts: Quarterly Data on Floppy Disk, June Quarter 1990 (5228.0; \$75.00) (7.30pm release)  
Balance of Payments, Australia, June Quarter 1990 (5302.0; \$16.50) (7.30pm release)  
Private New Capital Expenditure, Australia, Actual and Expected Expenditure to June 1991, June Quarter 1990 Survey, Preliminary, (5625.0; \$3.50)
- 22** Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry, Australia, May 1990 (6412.0; \$6.00)
- 24** Export Price Index, Australia, June 1990 (6405.0; \$5.00)
- 27** Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building, Eight Capital Cities, June 1990 (6407.0; \$9.00)  
Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra, June 1990 (6408; \$3.75)  
Registrations of New Motor Vehicles, Australia, Preliminary, July 1990 (9301.0; \$4.00)
- 28** Balance of Payments, Australia, July 1990 (5301.0; \$12.00)  
Foreign Investment, Australia, Preliminary, June Quarter 1990 (5307.0; \$6.50)

### Feature Article

*Australian National Accounts: National Income and Expenditure, June Quarter 1990 (5206.0), to be released at 7.30pm on 21 August 1990, will contain a feature article entitled 'Which is the best short-term measure of gross domestic product?'. This article analyses the short-term movements of the three measures of gross domestic product and their average.*

## The latest ...

Changes to key State indicators — consolidated to 14 August 1990



Statistics Weekly  
16 August 1990

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
— Percentage change from same period previous year —									
New capital expenditure (Mar. qtr 90)*	10.1	-13.5	5.6	17.7	-5.3	-35.2	n.a.	n.a.	-2.4
Retail turnover (May 90) (trend estimate)	7.3	2.1	7.0	5.6	5.8	9.3	n.a.	9.3	5.5
New motor vehicle registrations (June 90)*	8.6	-7.2	-0.6	-2.5	-16.8	n.a.	-4.3	19.5	-0.7
Number of dwelling unit approvals (June 90)	-23.7	-31.2	-26.8	1.4	-42.2	-17.2	-41.0	-29.2	-26.9
Value of total building work done (March qtr 90)	6.7	7.9	1.1	12.9	5.1	-4.0	30.9	-4.0	5.9
Employed persons (July 90)*	1.7	2.4	3.3	2.3	2.7	3.2	-0.4	3.3	2.4
Capital city consumer price index (June qtr 90)	8.1	7.8	6.6	6.7	8.6	6.2	6.4	6.9	7.7
Average weekly earnings (full-time adult ordinary time) (February 90)	8.0	6.4	5.1	7.5	4.5	7.3	4.8	6.4	6.6
Population (Dec. 89)	0.9	1.3	3.1	1.1	2.8	0.9	-0.1	2.2	1.6
Guest nights in licensed hotels and motels, etc (Dec. qtr 89)	1.3	-4.7	-8.7	10.6	0.7	-11.2	-19.6	-8.5	-2.9

\* Seasonally adjusted for States (but not Territories)

## Key national indicators – consolidated to 14 August 1990

		Period	Latest figure available		Percentage change (a) on	
			Original	Seasonally adjusted	Previous period	Corresponding period last year
<b>National production</b>						
Gross domestic product	— current prices	\$m Mar. qtr 90	89,263	94,113	2.3	9.8
	— 1984-85 prices		62,030	65,441	1.8	4.4
<b>Industrial activity</b>						
New capital expenditure	— current prices	\$m Mar. qtr 90	6,200	6,995	-1.5	-2.4
	— 1984-85 prices		4,637	5,244	-2.9	-8.1
Expected new capital expenditure		Three months to June 90	8,040	n.a.	n.a.	-4.8
Retail turnover	— current prices (e)	" May 90	7,015	6,956	-2.1	7.2
	— 1984-85 prices (e)	Mar. qtr 90	14,013	14,436	0.0	1.4
New motor vehicle registrations (f)		June 90	52,449	49,183	-9.3	-0.7
Dwelling unit approvals		June 90	11,234	11,251	-1.9	-24.1
Value of all building approvals			2,035	2,042	-8.5	-16.9
Value of total building work done	— current prices	" Mar. qtr 90	6,922	7,562	-2.0	5.8
	— 1984-85 prices	"	4,429	4,839	-3.0	-2.3
Manufacturers' sales		Mar. qtr 90	33,133	36,124	2.4	8.3
Expected manufacturers' sales		Three months to June 90	36,461	n.a.	n.a.	6.3
<b>Labour</b>						
Employed persons	'000	July 90	7,932.9	7,936.8	0.4	2.4
Unemployment rate †	%	"	6.7	6.9	0.3	0.8
Participation rate †	"	"	64.0	64.2	0.3	0.9
Job vacancies	'000	Feb. 90	60.9	56.1	-15.0	-15.9
Average weekly overtime per employee	hours	"	1.4	1.4	-8.7	-3.5
<b>Prices, profits and wages</b>						
Consumer price index	1980-81 = 100.0	June qtr 90	207.4	n.a.	1.6	7.7
Price index of materials used in manufacturing industries	1984-85 = 100.0	May 90	118.9	n.a.	-0.8	0.3
Price index of articles produced by manufacturing industry	1968-69 = 100.0	Apr. 90	571.5	n.a.	0.7	6.6
Company profits before income tax	\$m	Mar. qtr 90	3,668	4,633	9.0	2.0
Average weekly earnings (f) (Full-time adults; ordinary time)	\$	Feb. 90	524.70	n.a.	1.6	6.6
<b>Interest rates (b) (monthly average)</b>	% per annum	June 90	15.10	n.a.	0.1	-3.2
90-day bank bills †	"	"	13.40	n.a.	-0.1	-0.1
10-year Treasury bonds †	"	"	"	"	"	"
<b>Balance of payments</b>						
Exports of merchandise	\$m	June 90	3,576	3,525	-7.0	-8.9
Imports of merchandise	"	"	3,551	3,806	-0.4	-10.8
Balance on merchandise trade (c)	"	"	25	281	-836.6	29.0
Balance of goods and services (c)	"	"	-361	-559	-62.5	28.4
Balance on current account (c)	"	"	-1,575	-1,808	-26.8	5.6
Terms of trade (d)	1984-85 = 100.0	Mar. qtr 90	n.a.	104.0	-4.9	-5.9
<b>Foreign investment</b>						
Net foreign debt	\$m	31 Mar. 90	124,270	n.a.	5.6	16.0
Net foreign liabilities	"	"	163,388	n.a.	3.3	17.4
<b>Exchange rates (monthly average)</b>						
US\$	per \$A	June 90	0.7783	n.a.	2.2	3.0
Trade weighted index	May 1970 = 100.0	"	61.1	n.a.	2.2	2.7
<b>Other indicators</b>						
Population (resident at end of qtr)	million	Dec. 89	16.9	n.a.	0.4	1.6
Overseas visitors (e)	'000	Apr. 90	181	195	8.8	10.5

(a) Based on seasonally adjusted figures where available. (b) Source: Reserve Bank of Australia. (c) For percentage changes, a minus sign indicates an increase in the deficit; no sign means a decrease in the deficit or an increase in the surplus. (d) The ratio of the price of goods and services for exports to that for imports. (e) Later figures released Wednesday, 15 August 1990. (f) Later figures released Thursday, 16 August 1990.

NOTES: † = change is shown in terms of percentage points. n.a. = not available.

Figures have been taken from a variety of ABS publications. Copies may be obtained from Information Services (see page 6). Some of the figures shown are preliminary, some final, and some are revisions of previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with the ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important.

The ABS should be acknowledged as the source when reproducing or quoting any part of this publication.

